

Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

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*This article was written from information from the officials of the camp and from my own observations while on a research trip.*

Beautiful Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County is typical of those in all of the state parks being developed by the State Conservation Commission. Watoga has 10,335 acres of land in the Allegheny Mountains east of the Greenbrier river in Pocahontas County. It is under development as a state park and will offer to the public when completed one of the most attractive visiting places in the United States--a "Nature lovers paradise". Plans call for everything that can be added to make it a show place.

There is a large lake eleven acres in extent, for boating, bathing and fishing; a number of ~~artificially built~~ and well furnished cabins; camp sites, picnic grounds; a system of automobile roads, foot trails and bridle paths.

Good fishing may be found in nearby streams in season and hunting upon lands adjacent to the park which in itself constitutes an excellent game preserve.

Watoga Park is the largest of West Virginia State Parks. It is located in heavily wooded rolling mountain country. It has a fine growth of young timber and plant life, so fine in fact that a part of it has been designated as an arboretum.

West Virginia is a mountainous land of rugged beauty and possesses publicly administered forests and parks which represent all phases of the picturesque formations with which nature so richly endowed the state. These areas will serve the three-fold purpose of growing another crop of merchantable timber, providing outdoor recreational facilities for the citizens of the state and visitors and will serve to a considerable extent



as game preserves from which to repopulate adjacent public shooting and fishing grounds.

The state parks are being developed through the agency of CCC Camps. Much progress has been made in fitting them for the enjoyment of the people. Trips can be arranged for beautiful drives, week ends, Sundays and holidays. One of these parks can be reached in a few hours from almost any section of the State.

In the various camps there is plenty of entertainment for the boys; they can hunt deer, squirrels, grouse and bear in season. They have individual counsel by the Educational advisers in the various camps and by the Company Commander, the doctor and others are available. They get to know the boy, his problems, home conditions, and try to help him get adjusted and get him interested in the camp educational program and recreational hobby and leisure time activity. When they leave camp, 90 per cent of the CCC boys have work. The boys are popular with the public. Many are now coming to believe that the CCC is largely educational training to make the boys better fitted physically, mentally and vocationally to get along in the world; to aid them in self culture, self-expression and better use of leisure time. It is a work for the conservation and training of youth as well as the conservation on national resources.

More and more the public is realizing what the CCC is doing in the camps. The camps are becoming popular and will probably be made permanent. A visit to any of these camps



will make anyone an enthusiast. Visitors enjoy going as they are so kindly welcomed by the officials and camp boys, and they plan another visit to bring some friends who have not been there. Citizenship is stressed in all the camps and many of the fine boys in the camps have gone to their homes better men and better citizens.

Watoga State Forest is a pleasant wooded country and even should the blight kill all the chestnut there are enough trees of other kinds on most of the area to make good cover for the game, many signs of which were noted by the State Foresters, who recently made an estimate of the chestnut timber.



This Article was written by  
Mr. Wm. B. Curry and given

~~Mr. Rella Yeager~~

Waltje State Park

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Coushatta

695 words

Lookout house - named Ann Bailey.

The lookout house is a reproduction  
of Indian warfare blockhouses.

The trails in Park have been given  
Indian names.

Source:

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